



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3000

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

School Committee Minutes 01/08/2008

APPROVED JANUARY 22, 2008

THE ARLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2008
7:30 P.M.

Present:

Susan Lovelace, Chair
Sean Garballey, Vice Chair
Jeff Thielman, Secretary

Denise Burns
Sue Sheffler
Ronald Spangler

Superintendent: Nate Levenson
Asst. Superintendent: Kathleen Bodie
Chief Financial Off: Sue Mazzaella
Interim Sp. Ed. Dir: Gerald Kupperschmidt
Student Rep: Bobby McWatters

Absent:

Joe Curran
Student Rep Callie McHugh

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

CONSENT AGENDA – all items listed with an asterisk (*) are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion.

There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a member of the committee so request, in which event the item will be considered in its normal sequence.

*Approval of Warrant # 08082 dated December 11, 2007 in the amount of \$595,084.59

*Approval of December 11, 2007 Regular minutes

*Appointment of representative to Permanent Town Building Meeting member: Ron Spangler

*Appointment of representative to Special Education Director Search Committee: Sue Sheffler

*Second Reading of the following policies:

LBC-R RELATIONS WITH HOME SCHOOLS, change date

BDFA-E CONDUCT OF SCHOOL COUNCILS BUSINESS, recoding as BDFA and renaming it "School Councils" and aligning the scope of the new BDFA to the scope of MGL 71:59C

BDFA-E-1 SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN, consolidating with BDFA-E-2 into a single revised BDFA-E-1 titled "School Improvement Plan, adding, per subcommittee discussion the provisions that the committee received (but not approve) these plans each year.

BDFA-E-2 SUBMISSION AND APPROVAL OF THE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN, eliminating the old file

On a motion by Mr. Thielman and seconded by Mr. Garballey it was voted
To approve the CONSENT AGENDA with the removal of the Warrant #08082
VOTE: 6:0

Ms. Burns inquired about legal fees and bills for this fiscal year and Ms. Mazzarella provided this information to the committee.

On a motion by Mr. Spangler and seconded by Mr. Thielman it was voted to approve the warrant # 08082 dated December 11, 2007 in the amount of \$595,084.59.

Vote 6:0 unanimous

RECOGNITION

Ms. Lovelace recognized Ms. Kim Holt and nine students from the Ottoson who participated in the Heifer International Service Learning in Rutland, MA. The students learned how to care for animals, grow crops and then to provide the livestock to impoverished families around the world. The Heifer International mission is to end hunger and poverty and care for the earth.
TOUGH CHOICES OR TOUGH TIMES

Mr. David Driscoll, former DOE Commissioner presented the Tough Choices or Tough Times article he wrote on the skills of the American workforce. The Administrative team joined the School Committee members for the presentation.

PROGRAM OF STUDIES

Mr. Charlie Skidmore, presented the Program of Studies for the 2008-2009

Mr. Skidmore acknowledged that all proposed changes are budget neutral in that new courses will replace existing courses. The goals are to provide AHS students with varied course offerings and with courses that will better prepare them for the 21st century.

On a motion by Mr. Thielman and second by Ms. Burns it was unanimously voted to Approve the Program of Studies for the 2008-2009.

Vote 6:0

On a motion by Mr. Spangler and seconded by Mr. Thielman it was voted to refer Policy IGD Curriculum Adoption to the Policies and Procedures Subcommittee for review and revision to make it consistent with present committee practice.
VOTE 6:0

BUDGET DISCUSSIONS

Superintendent Levenson presented FY 09 Budget Developments. The first budget discussion was related to the Special Education Cost Control, Transportation, Paperwork and Out of District Placement Costs.

*Superintendent Levenson proposed the FY 09 Operating Budget in accordance with year 4 of the 5-year stability plan. FY 08 approved budget: \$36,775,603 and FY 09 Proposed: \$37,878,871
(This is a 3% increase)*

On a motion by Mr. Garballey and seconded by Mr. Spangler it was voted to approve The Bottom Line FY 09 Budget Figure of \$37,878,871.

Vote: 6:0

On a motion by Mr. Garballey and seconded by Mr. Spangler it was voted to Move the 11 o'clock rule to 11:15 pm.

Vote 6:0

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Levenson expressed gratification that Arlington High School was awarded the Silver medal by U.S. News and World Report on the ranking of America's best high schools.~Only 505 schools out of the 18,790 schools surveyed were awarded Gold, Silver or Bronze status in the magazine's ranking.~AHS received recognition based on the following criteria: "standardized test performance, proficiency rates of all students, including the least advantaged, and challenging college-ready curriculum."~

SUBCOMMITTEE

Policy & Procedures

Mr. Spangler presented the following policies for a first Reading, and noted that the Policy & Procedures subcommittee approved minutes are posted the website.

First Reading

To delete polices: ADA- School District Goals and Objectives, AD-E Educational Philosophy (for Arlington High School) and ADA-E Arlington High School Missions Statement and AE: Commitment to Accomplishment.

Replace policy: AD- Educational Philosophy in its entirety with a policy titled "Vision and Mission".

Revise policy ADDA - C.O.R.I Requirements.

GCBB- Employment of Principals- date changed from April 1 to July 1.

Budget

Mr. Garballey presented the Budget Subcommittee report dated January 7, 2008, which included research on advertising. Mr. Garballey noted after much analysis and speaking with administrators, the Superintendent and the cost containment manger, the small amount of advertising revenue expected, would impact the PTO's, AEEF and the Booster Clubs in town.

SECRETARY REPORT

Mr. Thielman reported on the correspondence received by the School Committee.

NEW BUSINESS

none

ADJOURN

On a motion by Mr. Spangler and seconded by Mr. Thielman it was voted to Adjourn at 11:15 pm.

Vote 6:0

Submitted by:

Karen Fitzgerald

Administrative Assistant

Arlington School Committee